

so city council. If a person in the Legislature does something, it's that so and so Legislature, Congress, the Senate, or whatever. The entire judicial system may be condemned around the country because one judge may issue an opinion that people don't like. But because the putting together of this government was done by people who understand these things very well, the U.S. Constitution as well as the State Constitution guarantees to all citizens the right to seek redress of grievances from government officials, which means they can approach us directly. They can talk to us. They can write letters. They can cuss us out. And, you know what? I think it's much better to be cussed out than knocked out. So if somebody is just raising their voice and venting their spleen and letting it all out, psychologists, psychiatrists and all people who deal with the mind will tell you that once that frustration, that anger has been vented, the person will tend to calm down and maybe bad action will not follow. But, in any case, when we are in positions and make decisions that affect the lives, the property, the well-being or just the happiness and contentment of our fellow citizens and people who dwell where we operate, even if they're not citizens, we should be prepared to accept criticism. I don't think this bill is going to hurt any political subdivision or anybody in office. If an individual slanders you by means of a spoken word or libels you by means of the written word, there are laws on the books, there is case law that will cover those types of situations. But whether it comes to the Legislature or any other political subdivision, I really don't want to see the court system used as a club by which to intimidate citizens to the point where they will not express their views. We know that education is not the best in this country so why should we expect people to express to us their thoughts when they're angry, in the language of a Shakespeare, not John Milton, God forbid, but of somebody who is extremely literate, practiced in the use of language and having a deep understanding of political processes?

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: That does not even occur within the political subdivision which is being criticized. It doesn't occur on this legislative floor. It doesn't occur in Congress or the Senate except in rare instances. I don't see the bill as doing anything to damage politicians, the political process or the carrying out of public business. But I do see it as a means to ensure citizens that they can participate in the operation of